



MDOC

Week of
June 12, 2010

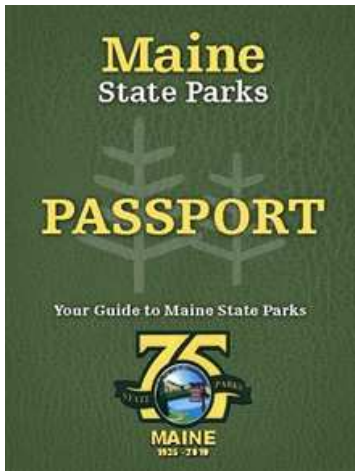
From the Field

Conserving Maine's Special Places for Maine People

22 State House Station, 18 Elkins Lane, Harlow Building, Augusta, Maine 04333 <http://www.maine.gov/doc>

Maine State Parks Passport Successfully Launched

The Maine State Parks Passport was launched Tuesday, May 25, by Gov. John E. Baldacci during an exciting event at Range Ponds State Park in Poland. There were plenty of special guests, media and park visitors who couldn't wait to get their own Parks Passport. Park Manager Gordeen Skolfield stamped Gov. Baldacci's passport -- the first official stamping -- which he then showed off to everyone. Park visitors, many of them in bathing suits because of the hot, beautiful weather, started lining up to get their own passports marked.



Passport sponsors have been particularly supportive of this program. Some, like Oakhurst Dairy, have been helping to get out the word with their own advertising. Oakhurst has launched both print ads and radio announcements. Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare Foundation has helped distribute the passports. Our other sponsors also have sponsored the printing and distribution, including Maine Office of Tourism, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, L.L.Bean, Hannaford, Poland Spring Water, Kittery Trading Post, DeLorme, Wicked Joe Coffee and Friends of Maine State Parks.

We are most grateful for their support of this outstanding program.

More than 75,000 passports were printed, and they are going fast! With all the enthusiasm, it's very likely that the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands will get its first passport completion -- stamps from 48 state parks and historic sites -- this season! We anticipate a special event when that happens.

Here's some feedback from our park managers:

Kelsie Tardiff, Colonial Pemaquid

The passport program is a hit! On Saturday just before I closed up, a family ran in looking for our passport station, which is located in the museum. They had already been to eight other parks that day!! They were planning on heading down to Reid State Park afterwards, and if they had time, Fort Popham and Popham Beach after that!!

Matt McGuire, Cobscook

We installed passport stations at Cobscook, Ft. O'Brien and Shackford Head. The stations are already seeing use and the response to the passports is very positive. When promoting the booklets, the public's eyes light up when we announce that the passports are free. We are already distributing stickers to visitors who have eight-plus parks in just one long weekend

Kurt Schoener, Damariscotta Lake

We rolled out the new passport program last week and are already seeing kids that have gotten around to eight or more parks. They love it!



Park Manager Gordeen Skolfield stamps Gov. Baldacci's Parks Passport while MDOC Commissioner Eliza Townsend holds the passport box.



Eager passport holders wait to get their booklets stamped.

Tom Desjardin, parks historian

On Thursday, a family with three young children stopped by the Colburn House anxious to get their passports stamped. I had to get the box out of the barn because it wasn't even ready yet and told them they were my first customers. The kids were very excited, and I had to lock the combination because the youngest was all excited with his thumb on the combination printed in his book. They had been to Ft. Halifax and were going to Camden on Saturday.

Make sure you get your Parks Passport – available at Maine state parks and historic sites!

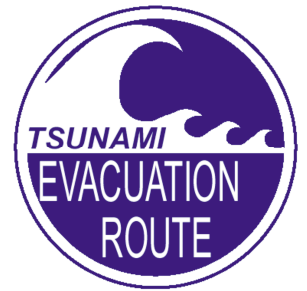
Maine Geological Survey Helps to Make Maine a “Tsunami Ready” State

The Maine Geological Survey (MGS) is working with the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to develop tsunami inundation maps for Maine’s coast, which MEMA will use to help plan evacuation routes in the event of a tsunami. These maps will identify areas along the coast of Maine that would become flooded due to a tsunami hitting the coast.

This project is part of a national plan to make all U.S. coastal states “tsunami ready.” These evacuation routes will be developed not only for tsunamis, but also will be designed for the coastal hazards of flooding, hurricanes, and nor’easters.

Historically there have only been a few tsunamis recorded in Maine. The closest major damaging tsunami to Maine that occurred was in 1929 in Newfoundland. This tsunami was caused by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake which triggered an underwater landslide. The tsunami at its maximum extent moved inland 480 meters to an elevation of 25 feet. The number of people killed from this 1929 tsunami is in the range of 25-50, depending on various reports.

The tsunami inundation map that MGS is developing looks at the “worst-case scenario” event that would create a tsunami affecting Maine’s coastline. This event would be a 9.0 magnitude earthquake in the Puerto Rico Trench, located off the north coast of Puerto Rico.



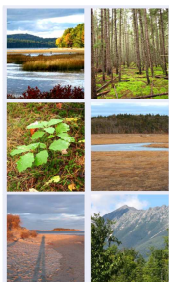
In preliminary modeling of this event scenario, a wave of over 2 feet high would hit the coast of Maine, and the travel time for the wave to reach Maine from Puerto Rico would be over 5 hours. A 2-foot wave does not seem like much, but remember that it is a 2-foot-high continuous wall of water moving inland, which will run into the hundreds of Maine’s coves, inlets, rivers, and estuaries, causing flooding and damage such as would happen during a hurricane storm surge or a large winter storm.

With these tsunami inundation maps aiding MEMA to properly identify coastal evacuation routes, Maine will become not only “tsunami ready,” but also better prepared for any coastal storm hazards that can occur.

Natural Areas Program Ecologist Participates in Climate Change Session

Ecologist Andy Cutko of the Maine Natural Areas Program helped lead a day-long workshop last month on integrating climate change into Maine’s state Wildlife Action Plan. The workshop, held May 19 at the Morgan Hill Conference Center in Hermon, was attended by more than 50 natural resource professionals from across the region.

One of the main goals of the workshop was to review the results of an on-line “Species Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment,” which sought input on the potential impacts of climate change to the state’s rare wildlife, plants and natural communities. A total of 76 participants were involved in the on-line survey, which evaluated more than 400 rare species.



Preliminary results suggest that as much as 40 percent of the state's rare species may be lost in the next 50-100 years as a result of climate change and other stresses, with the most significant impacts to alpine systems, cold water ponds and streams, and tidal marshes. Within the next few months, project partners will formalize the results of the survey and initiate discussions regarding adaptation measures.

The project is a collaborative effort of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Beginning with Habitat Program, Maine Natural Areas Program, Manomet Center, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Audubon, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with funding for the effort provided by the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Maine's First State Park to Hold Second Birding Festival

Maine's first state park, Aroostook State Park, located in Presque Isle, will hold its second annual birding Saturday, with a special focus on birding around the park's beautiful 70-acre lake.

This year's festival will feature seven of Maine's top bird specialists leading guided hikes; birding by boat from Echo Lake; a live-bird demonstration of raptors; bird-house building for youngsters; and a group of artisan wood carvers demonstrating nature and bird carving.

The second annual Aroostook State Park Birding Festival will be held:

- **5 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, June 12, rain or shine at the park.; fees are \$2 for adults, \$1 for children 5-11, all others free; coffee, hot chocolate and water available for participants. Dress appropriately. Bring personal birding equipment (books, spotting scopes, binoculars, cameras, etc.), sun screen and insect repellent.**



Among the scheduled activities are morning bird walks, bird-banding demonstrations, bird-calling demonstrations, use of a parabolic microphone, and use of a spotting scope for long-distance sightings.

For more information, go to: <http://www.parksandlands.com> and follow the link to "Parks Events."

Maine State Parks Trivia: How many Maine state parks are included on the Maine Birding Trail?

New Trail Poster Unveiled



Posing by the new Haystack Mountain display are (left to right) Park Manager Scott Thompson, Gary Boone, retired geology professor, Chenzeng Wang, University of Maine at Presque Isle geology professor and GIS specialist, Nolan Gagnon, UMPI student, and Bill Forbes, retired geology

A new interpretative poster has been unveiled for the bulletin board at Haystack Mountain Hiking Trail. The new poster provides information on the geology at the mountain, which is 500,000 years old and, at one time, was volcanic. The poster was prepared by local geology experts.

Haystack offers one of the best 360-degree views in all of Aroostook County without climbing a fire tower, according to Park Manager Scott Thompson of Aroostook State Park, which maintains the mountain along with the town of Castle Hill and many volunteers.

Two guided hikes are scheduled for 6 and 9 a.m. Sunday, June 27, sponsored by BPL, Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce, Healthy Aroostook, and Poland Spring. For more information, call Aroostook State Park at 768-8341 or check the BPL events calendar at: <http://www.parksandlands.com>

Maine Conservation Corps Starts Season

The Maine Conservation Corps summer season is in full swing! Nine trail crews are in the field serving on projects in places such as the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, the Appalachian Trail, and Baxter, Quoddy Head and Bradbury Mountain State Parks.

This season, the Field Team is comprised of members from 18 different states, including several from as far away as California and Florida. The nine crews will be working on 23 different projects over the summer. Approximately a quarter of the members are from Maine. Another small group of members will join the MCC crews in late June.

A total of 14 new environmental educators also recently started their service, bringing the total number of EEs around the state to 33. There are seven who are serving in Maine state parks and on Maine public lands. Seven other EEs are serving with other non-profit and state organizations, including the Georges River Land Trust, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

The new group of environmental educators hails from eight different states and about half of them are from Maine. They will be working on projects as varied as fisheries assessments, trail maintenance and construction, environmental education curriculum development, conservation easements, and stream bacteria monitoring.



This MCC crew is working on the Gulf Hagas Rim Trail on the Appalachian Trail.

Recreational Trail Grants Announced

More than \$1.4 million in Recreational Trails Program grants for local and state trail projects has been announced by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. The Federal Highway Administration has approved a total of 30 state projects and 34 local projects for Maine, with projects spread geographically from Kittery to Portage. The recipient organizations have been notified and now can begin work on their projects.

The total amount of funding is expected to be \$1,466,847 from Federal Highway Administration funds by way of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The money comes from federal taxes on off-road vehicle registrations.



Several projects are collaborative efforts between groups. Among these were the town of Camden and the Coastal Mountain Land Trust; the town of Millinocket and the Northern Timber Cruisers; and the city of Bath and the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, all developing trails that will be built jointly and connected in those areas.

The Maine Island Trail Association is receiving a \$20,000 grant to work with Rippleffect Inc., an organization that offers adventure-based programs, to open up trails and overlooks at Little Chebeague that have been overgrown with invasive species during the summer.

Another \$31,000 grant is going to the Aroostook State Park in Presque Isle for the acquisition of 145 acres abutting the park that will be a welcome addition to the site. The added acreage will expand the park's trail system while providing links to existing snowmobile trail networks.

Several grants will provide funding for Maine Conservation Corps trail crews and environmental educators to assist with trail planning, construction and maintenance of miles of trail, including the Appalachian Trail.

Other local grants are going to: the towns of Monmouth, Madison, Readfield, Saco, Portage, Gardiner, Camden, Washburn and Greenville; the Maine Appalachian Trail Club; the Friends of Sears Island; the Friends of Eastern Prom; Viles Arboretum; Stanton Bird Club; Kennebunkport Conservation Trust; Falmouth Sno-Voyagers; Penobscot Snowmobile Club;

Portland schools; Bangor Land Trust; Mt. Agamenticus; Winslow School; Good Will Hinckley; Lake Environmental Association; and Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

Applications for the next round of trail grants are available now with a deadline of Nov. 5. Also available is the application for the Land & Water Conservation grants. The forms are available on line. For more information, call Mick Rogers, BPL manager of community grants and recreation, at: (207) 287-4962

Or go to: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/community/index.html>

Maine Forest Service Rescues Missing Hiker

Two Maine Forest Service Forest Protection personnel were instrumental last month in the safe rescue of a missing hiker in Baxter State Park. The search for the hiker was considered the largest search in Baxter State Park in 40 years.



A MFS UH-1 "Huey" helicopter similar to this one shown on Traveler Mountain was used to rescue a stranded hiker May 31 in Baxter State Park.

Ranger Pilot Lincoln Mazzei and aircraft mechanic Ron Adams located the missing man on May 31 after providing air support on the search for three days.

The experienced hiker, Michael Hays, 41, of Stow, was lost after he left the trail he was on in search of a shortcut. He shattered his left kneecap. The search, which involved about 40 people on the ground, ended when Hays stepped into a small clearing in steep, densely wooded terrain and waved an orange poncho at the passing MFS helicopter.

Mazzei and Adams flew the UH-1 "Huey" helicopter under very windy conditions, but still were able to spot the hiker in the clearing off the Helon Taylor trail.

Mazzei, who also flies for the TSC 793 Naval Reserve Unit in Manchester, NH, considered this his first rescue as a ranger pilot. Rangers from the East Branch District assisted in the Baxter Park search by providing heli-base operations for the division's aircraft assigned to the search.

Maine Forest Service Battles Blazes in Maine, Quebec

A Maine crew of wild-land firefighters, led by Maine Forest Service forest rangers, is expected to return this weekend after a two-week stint assisting with a massive fire in northeastern Quebec. The fire burned 50,000 acres in the Canadian province, and smoke from the intense blaze could be smelled and seen in Maine.

The crew was sent as part of the Northeastern Forest Fire Compact, an interstate-province agreement for mutual firefighting support. Forest Ranger Mike Daigle of Fort Kent is the crew boss and responsible for the five rangers and 15 civilian wild-land firefighters. All the crews in Quebec were pulled off the fire for safety reasons on May 30 due to the extreme fire behavior.

For the next few days, the Maine crew set up pumps, dug fire lines and protected a small community which had been evacuated. Towards the end of the week, they relocated into a remote area of rugged terrain and continued their initial attack and then mop-up of the fire.

The crew is doing well and is scheduled to return to Maine on Saturday, June 12.



2007 Quebec fire similar to the one fought this past month by a Maine crew.

In other MFS Forest Protection Division news, approximately 40 small fires occurred during the dry and windy week centered around Memorial Day weekend. The fires bring the total number of fires for 2010 up to more 360, with more than 250 acres burned.

Causes for fires over this period ranged from lightning to escaped debris burns, holiday fireworks, unattended campfires and wildfire arson. The last reported wildfire arson fire occurred on May 29 in the Downeast area. A red-flag warning was issued on Sunday, May 30, due to the gusty winds and the low relative humidity.

During the dry weather over Memorial Day weekend, the Maine Warden Service flew two air detection flights. These flights are used to spot smoke from wildfires and to look for unpermitted burning.

Chief Forest Ranger Pilot John Knight used a UH-1 "Huey" helicopter to drop 4,800 gallons of water on a stubborn wildfire in Lincoln, preventing it from consuming dozens of acres of forest. Two Federal Excess Property (FEP) 2.5 ton brush trucks also were used on the fire. The Maine Forest Service administers the FEP program, which loans firefighting equipment to local fire departments.

Project Canopy Grants Available to Support Community Forestry Projects

Project Canopy will award \$125,000 in grants to municipalities, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations that support community efforts to develop and maintain long-term community forestry programs.



Project Canopy, a cooperative partnership between the Maine Forest Service (MFS) and the Viles Arboretum in Augusta, encourages communities to develop project proposals that support sustainable community forestry management, increase awareness of the benefits of trees and forests, and increase the health and livability of communities through sound tree planting and maintenance.

The MFS anticipates that \$125,000 will be available to support community forestry projects in 2010. Project Canopy has two grant categories for applicants to choose from: planning and education grants and tree planting and maintenance grants. Project Canopy grants are competitive and require a 50-percent match from the grant recipient in cash or in-kind services.

To be eligible to apply for 2010 Project Canopy assistance grants, all applicants must attend a grant workshop prior to submitting an application. Grant workshops are scheduled for June and July and will be held in various locations throughout the state. The workshops will cover topics including grant writing, project development, sustainable community forestry management, and grant administration.

Applications must be submitted to the Maine Forest Service by 5 p.m. Aug. 9, 2010. To learn more about the Project Canopy Assistance program and to sign up for a grant workshop in your area, contact Project Canopy at 207-287-4987. For more information, go to: <http://projectcanopy.maine.gov>

Kennebec Woodland Partnership Welcomes New Members

The Kennebec Woodland Partnership, a forestland conservation initiative launched by the Maine Forest Service and Kennebec Land Trust in 2009, has welcomed five lead partners in an effort to promote private and public land stewardship and conservation in Kennebec County.

The new group plans to hold a three-day conference on Oct. 21-23 for private and public landowners focusing on the importance of forestland to Kennebec County region. The conference is open to the public.

The new members include:

- Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine
- Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands

- Forest Society of Maine
- And the Maine Forest Products Council

Kennebec County is an area of ecological and socio-economic transition between the most densely populated and the most heavily forested areas of the state. The partnership was formed out of common interests and an awareness that the county's local economy, wood products markets, recreational opportunities, water quality, wildlife habitat, and quality of life all depend largely on about 388,000 acres of woodland. The KWP will work with a broad network of woodland owners, towns, cities, local businesses, foresters, and biologists, with support from local conservation groups, state agencies, and non-profit organizations.

The KWP's goal is to provide a wide range of tools and strategies to help landowners make informed decisions about their woodlands. The group supports a wide range of actions and commitments that will lead toward "keeping forest as forest" in Kennebec County.

Initial funding for KWP was provided by a Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund grant of \$5,100 as well as funding from the USDA Forest Service-Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry. For more information, contact: Amanda Mahaffey, Project Manager, Kennebec Woodland Partnership, KennebecWoodlandPartnership@gmail.com, (207) 449-3070.

Plum Creek Foresters and Contractors Get Training in Forest-Practices Laws

MFS District Forester Gordon Moore and Regional Enforcement Coordinator Tom Whitworth recently provided training in Best Management Practices (BMP) and the state's Forest Practices Act to timber harvesting contractors working for Plum Creek Maine Timberlands.



The purpose of the training sessions was to provide information that would prevent problems or violations from occurring. Moore spoke about harvesting activities and techniques/practices to prevent soil erosion, site degradation and protection of water bodies. He pointed out situations and practices that could become water-quality issues and violations. Whitworth, meanwhile, covered forestry regulations and problems that have been encountered in timber harvesting that could lead to forestry regulation violations.

A total of 71 contractors attended the morning meeting, and 12 contractors attended the afternoon session, which also was conducted in French for Canadian timber harvest crews.

MFS Policy Division staff also conducted training for Plum Creek foresters. Regional Enforcement Coordinators Paul Larrivee and Tom Whitworth and Team Leader Tim Post spoke about the Forest Practices Act clearcutting and regeneration rules. Their presentation illustrated real situations where problems have been encountered with harvesting activities.

The discussion also included harvest layout, planning, supervision and on-the-ground activities to comply with the state's forestry regulations. A total of 28 foresters and supervisory staff attended the meeting, which was a condition of a settlement for past harvesting infractions.

Maine Forest Service Foresters Instruct Loggers

MFS Policy Division staff members have completed instructing 315 loggers across the state for mechanical recertification under the Certified Logging Professional (CLP) program. The MFS staff assisted in 15 classes in 14 locations, providing information and instruction on Best Management Practices (BMP) for harvesting as well as biomass retention guidelines.

The training program was designed by Keith Kanoti, MFS water resources forester, and Kevin Doran, MFS natural sciences educator.

Other MFS staff members taking part in the instruction were District Foresters Ken Canfield, Merle Ring, Patty Cormier, Jim Ecker, Steve MacDonald, Dan Jacobs and Dave Rochester.

In a letter of thanks to the MFS, Mike St. Peter, CLP program administrator, wrote: “The evaluations completed by each individual logger indicate that the presenters met or exceeded the participant’s expectations ... we are grateful for the support of logger training efforts and the promotion of professional practices in Maine’s forest products industry.”

District Forester Assists Students with Downeast Stream Restoration Project

Washington Academy students recently completed an impressive planting project that will help restore Atlantic salmon habitat Downeast. MFS District Forester Steve MacDonald assisted with the planting project and obtained tree seedling donations from two companies, Acadian Timber and CedarWorks, which both donated more than 1,000 seedlings for the project.

The planting was part of a larger stream restoration project being implemented in the area by the local conservation group, Project SHARE (Salmon Habitat and River Enhancement). Prior to the planting, Project SHARE installed a new arch culvert on Bear Brook to replace an undersized culvert that was causing fish passage problems. The undersized culvert had created a number of unnatural wetlands to become established upstream. Once the new arch culvert was in place the stream flow was no longer obstructed and the wetlands drained.



Atlantic Salmon

The students planted the drained wetland areas with cedar, black spruce, and willow. Once established, the seedlings will provide valuable shade to the stream, lowering the water temperatures and improving fish habitat. The 35 students involved in the project had a great time, and all said they were willing to do more plantings in the future if given the opportunity.

Maine Forest Service Staff Assist State Envirothon

The Maine state Envirothon competition was held late May at Husson College in Bangor, and MFS Policy Division staff members were on hand to assist as they have for many years. Sixteen teams of high school students who won their regional competitions met to compete for the state title.

MFS District Foresters Jim Ecker and Merle Ring assisted with the competition at Husson, writing the forestry test and setting up and monitoring the forestry part of the competition.

The winning teams for the 2010 state title were: Jay High School, first place; Mt Ararat High School from Topsham, second; and, Boghaunter Home School from Gray-Casco, third. The Jay team will go to the international Envirothon competition in California in early August.

Envirothon is a state- and nationwide environmental competition in which high school students test their knowledge of natural resources and current environmental issues. Teams consisting of three to five students compete first at a regional level, answering questions and solving hands-on problems at five stations: wildlife; water/aquatics; forestry; soils; and a current natural resource issue. This year’s current issue is “Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources.”

Sticky Traps Placed by Maine Forest Service

What’s big and purple and hangs in a tree? Maine Forest Service entomology staff members have been hanging large, purple, sticky traps in the canopies of ash trees throughout the state.

The MFS staff members are monitoring for emerald ash borer, a serious invasive pest which fortunately has not yet been found in Maine. This year, Maine also is running a trial to compare the efficiency of the traps, which is the standard method of monitoring, with bio-surveillance, a new method of monitoring which Maine is helping develop.

For the bio-surveillance, the MFS is linking monitoring volunteers throughout the state with colonies of a native non-stinging wasp that hunts beetles. The wasps do the monitoring for us.

Meet the MDOC: Allison Kanoti, entomologist, Maine Forest Service

MFS entomologist Allison Kanoti has been at the forefront of the Maine Forest Service's recent response to the detection of the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), an exotic invasive insect that kills hemlock trees, in southern Maine. The work on HWA is part of her job to administer five state-specific quarantines on pests and plants that threaten Maine's 18 million acres of forest land.



MFS entomologist Allison Kanoti

Kanoti first started working for MFS in March 2001 as an entomology technician employed with the Forest Inventory unit of MFS's Forest Health and Monitoring division. Working out of Orland, she measured trees on permanent plots in Hancock and southern Washington counties. After a brief lay-off and graduate school – getting her master's degree in forestry from the University of Maine -- she became an MFS entomologist in 2006.

Bugs, however, haven't always been her focus, she says with a laugh. "I've always been interested in the natural world and decided in eighth grade that I wanted to be a forester," she says. "The thought that I could work outside was a big part of it." The way that the natural world also draws one in "to learn some parts of it and then draws you in more" was another factor of her fascination, she admits.

"Even if you're just looking in the forest, there is such a diversity of insects, and they have so many interesting ways of making a living," she says. The entomologist also finds intriguing the fact that such small organisms as insects and diseases can have such great impact on something as complex as a forest.

Kanoti now works on the state quarantines regarding HWA, gypsy moth, pine shoot beetle, European larch canker, and the host plants, including gooseberries and currants, that support white pine blister rust. She oversees the regulation of the movement of products that could harbor these pests. Kanoti also monitors the spread of these pests and works on informing forest land owners, foresters, forest-product businesses and loggers of the dangers to Maine's forests.

The entomologist's particular concern is the number of new conditions which are affecting the state's woodlands at one time. In recent months, for example, southern Maine has seen first HWA, followed by the piggy-backing insect, elongate hemlock scale, and then by a tip blight, all on the same tree species.

"Some of the most severe threats are insects that are brought from overseas," Kanoti says, "and though they seem quite distant, here they are on our doorstep. Forests will re-grow after harvests ... and they can also adapt to new pests, but we've had this continual impact of non-native pests."

This raises the issue of forest resiliency and the question "when do you come to the point of exhausting that resiliency," she says. "It's important to try and limit the impact of these insects as best we can and contain them as best we can with the hope there is something down the road that will help with their management."

Sometimes this feels like an unending battle, Kanoti admits, and there is more and more pressure to be diligent to protect Maine's forests and all they mean in terms of their value as the state's primary natural resource. There is one bright spot, however, and Kanoti is quick to point out how gratifying it is to work with Maine residents, land owners, and professionals. It's been local people in particular who have been most helpful in monitoring for HWA in York County, she notes.

"When I first started, I never realized how much we rely on the public for diligence, and it's amazing the response we get," Kanoti says. "You see that people really care about this."

Check This Out ...

- MDOC has completed a video project showcasing six of our great Maine state parks and historic sites. The videos, which were completed with the excellent production help of Digital Spirit Media, feature MDOC and park staff and the music of Scott Woodruff. The showcased parks include: Colonial Pemaquid, Lake St. George, Camden

Hills, Moose Point, Damariscotta Lake and Fort Point. Take a look! You can find them all on our YouTube channel by following this link: <http://www.youtube.com/user/MaineConservation#p/u>

- Live in Maine? Then Sunday, June 20, **Maine Day**, is all yours to enjoy with free admission to all Maine state parks and historic sites, rain or shine, in recognition of your support for conservation in Maine. This does not apply to the Penobscot Narrows Observatory, though admission to Fort Knox State Historic Site will be free.
- One of the places you can consider visiting on Maine Day is Fort Knox State Historic Site in Prospect for the firing of the fort's huge brick oven, being done in anticipation of the upcoming "The Battle of Fort Knox" Civil War reenactment on July 23-25. Enjoy samples of baked goods, with a donation, made in the 150-year-old oven. The oven firing will take place 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday, June 20. Proceeds will go to support The Battle at Fort Knox. Admission to the site is free as part of Maine Day. For more information on the festival, go to: <http://ftknox.mainemilitia.com/regional-information/bucksport-bay-festival>
- Once again from the Shameless Commerce Department – Father's Day is coming up on Sunday, June 20, and what better way to celebrate with Dad than by going to his favorite Maine state park! The whole family can enjoy a beautiful day outdoors and get their Park Passports stamped. Seasonal park passes also make great Father's Day gifts that offer repeat enjoyment and unlimited day-use access. Individual passes are \$35, and vehicle passes – good for the whole family – are \$70, available at all Maine state parks or on line at : <http://www.maine.stateparkpass.com>
- Just for fun, Dad also might like a Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund lottery scratch ticket stuck in his Father's Day card. Look for "Loony Loot" at your favorite retailer. Remember, only the MOHF lottery ticket helps fund projects in our state to secure Maine's outdoor heritage for future generations.
- Our sister agency, the Maine Department of Agriculture, works with the MDOC on numerous activities, including invasive insect species. Ag is offering free training to volunteers who are interested in doing outreach on two of the most serious threats to Maine's forests, Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) and emerald ash borer (EAB). Three training sessions are being offered this month: Tuesday, June 22, Brunswick; Thursday, June 24, Auburn; and Tuesday, June 29, Augusta. Please contact Anne Bills at anne.bills@maine.gov or call 207-287-3892 for specific details.



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Find us here: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Augusta-ME/Maine-Department-of-Conservation/57426456796?ref=ts>



Park Trivia Answer: *The Maine Birding Trail lists 12 Maine state parks as terrific places to go birding throughout the state, from Kettle Cove at Crescent Beach State Park in Cape Elizabeth to Cobscook Bay State Park in Edmunds Township, Washington County, to Lily Bay State Park near Greenville. Novice to experienced birders will find plenty of unique species to fill their life lists.*

To get your free copy of the Maine Birding Trail, go to: http://www.visitmaine.com/attractions/nature/bird_watching_guided/

For information about birding activities at Maine state parks, go to: <http://www.parksandlands.com> and follow the link to "Park Events."

For more information on the Maine Department of Conservation, go to: <http://www.maine.gov/doc>
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